
CANCER FACTS

National Cancer Institute • National Institutes of Health

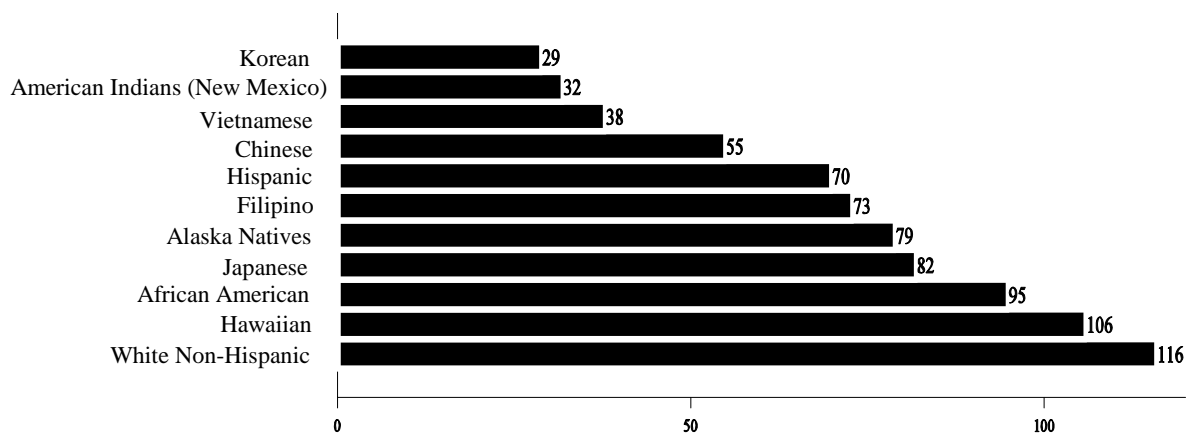
Breast Cancer and Mammography Facts

Breast Cancer Incidence¹ and Mortality²

White Non-Hispanic women have the highest incidence rate for breast cancer among the U.S. racial/ethnic groups shown in the graph below; Korean women have the lowest.

African American women have the highest mortality rate for breast cancer among these groups; Chinese women have the lowest.

Chart 1: Breast Cancer Incidence Rates, 1988–1992



Rates are average annual per 100,000 and age-adjusted to 1970 U.S. standard population.

Data Source: Racial/Ethnic Patterns of Cancer in the United States 1988–1992, National Cancer Institute.

¹**Incidence:** The number of newly diagnosed cancers per 100,000 population during a specific period of time (usually one year).

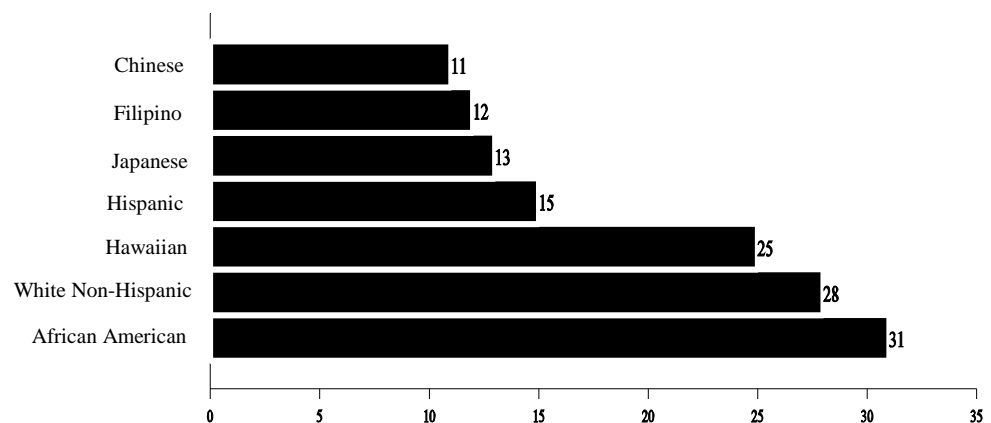
²**Mortality:** The number of deaths due to a cancer per 100,000 population during a specific period of time (usually one year).

Chart 2: What are the Chances of a Woman Getting Breast Cancer as She Ages?

By age 30... 1 out of 2,525
By age 40... 1 out of 217
By age 50... 1 out of 50
By age 60... 1 out of 24
By age 70... 1 out of 14
By age 80... 1 out of 10

Source: NCI Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program & American Cancer Society, 1993.

Chart 3: Breast Cancer Mortality Rates, 1988–1992



Rates are average annual per 100,000 and age-adjusted to 1970 U.S. standard population.

Data Source: Racial/Ethnic Patterns of Cancer in the United States 1988–1992, National Cancer Institute.

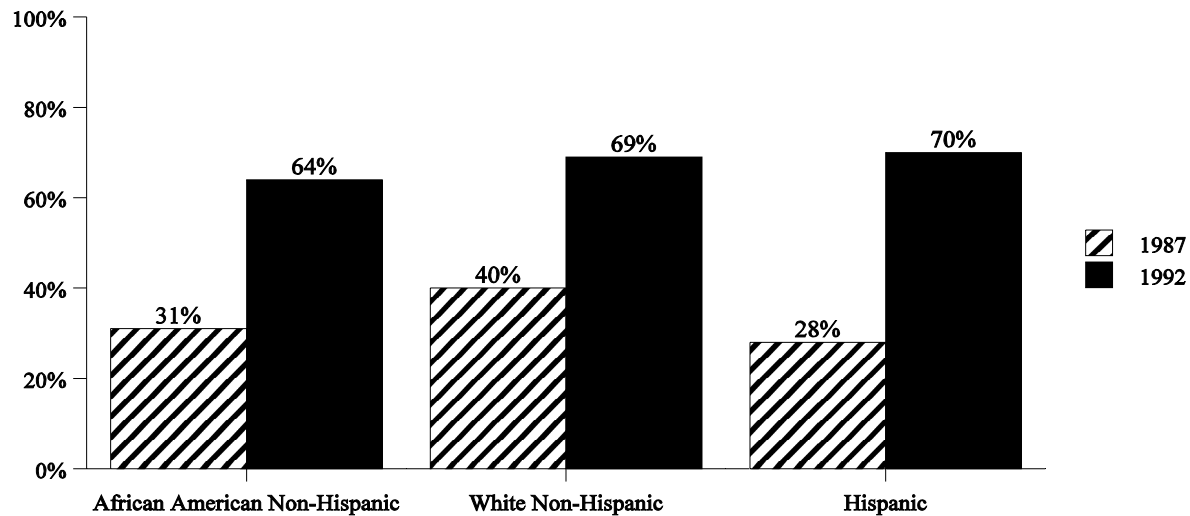
Note: Rates for Alaska Natives, American Indians (New Mexico), Koreans, and Vietnamese not available.

Mammography Rates³

Among African American, White Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic women ages 40 and older, the screening rates in 1992 are higher than in 1987.

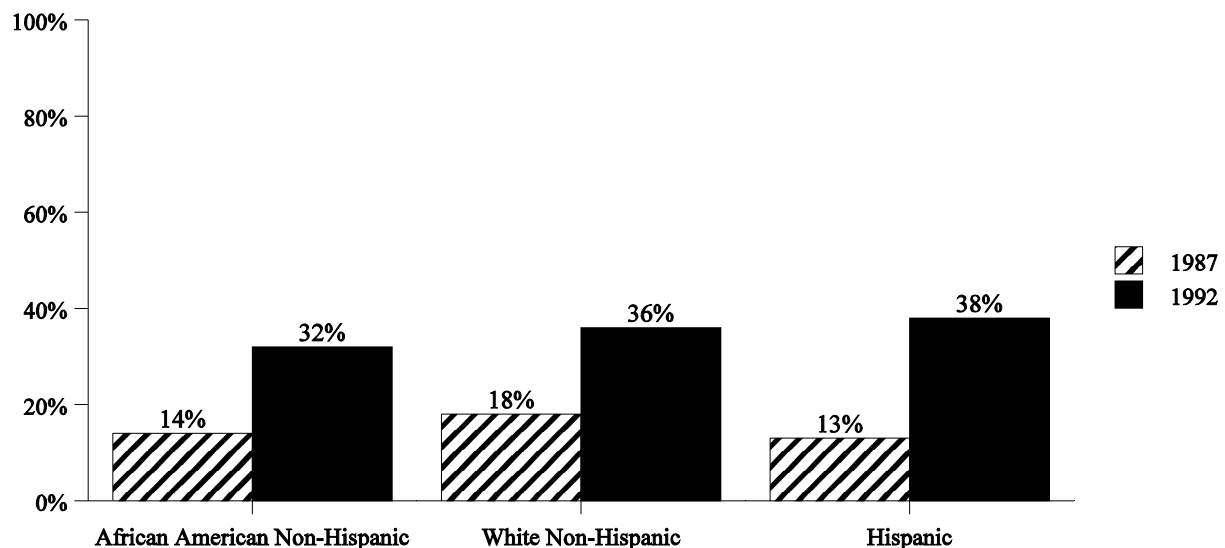
In every ethnic group, mammography rates for women age 65 and older are lower than for women who are under age 65.

Chart 4: Mammography Rates Among African American Non-Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic Women Ages 40 and Older, Who Ever Had a Mammogram, 1987 & 1992



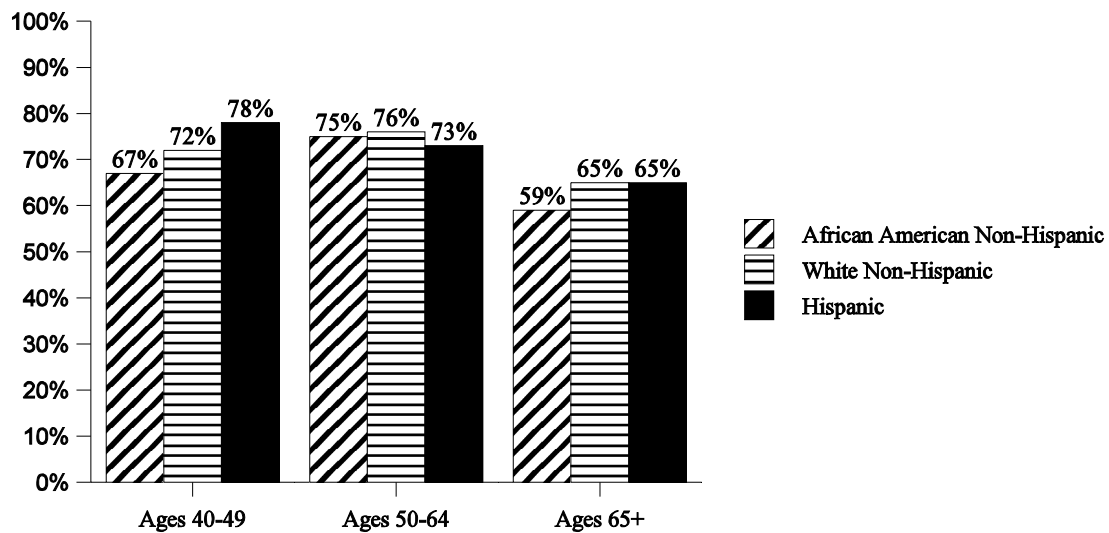
Data Source: MMWR 1995; 45(3):57-61.

Chart 5: Mammography Rates Among African American Non-Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic Women Ages 40 and Older, Who Had a Mammogram Within the Year, 1987 & 1992



Data Source: MMWR 1995; 45(3):57-61.

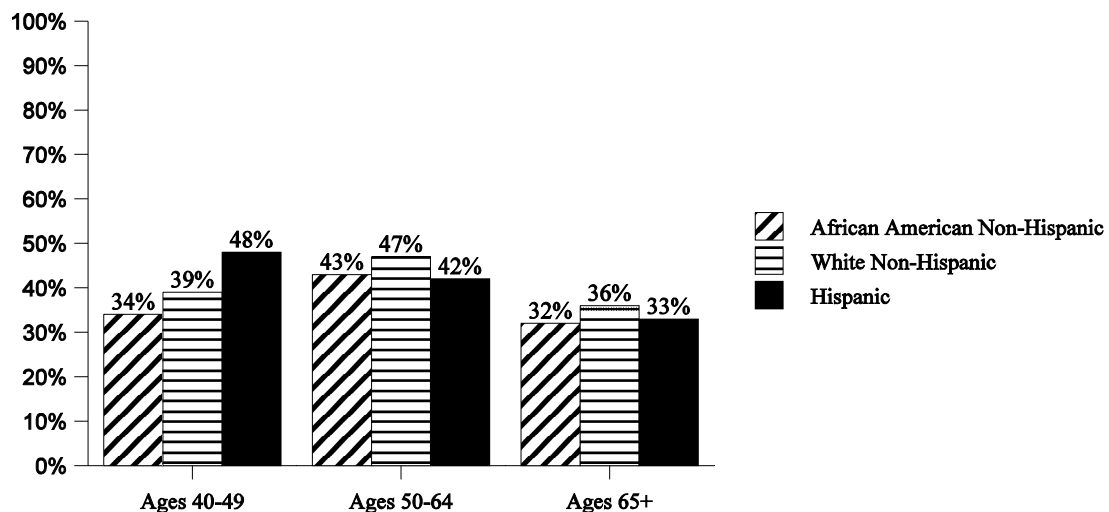
Chart 6: Mammography Rates Among African American Non-Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic Women, Who Ever Had a Mammogram, 1992



Data Source: National Health Interview Survey, 1992

Chart 7: Mammography Rates Among African American Non-Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic, and Hispanic Women, Who Had a Mammogram Within the Year, 1992

Data Source: National Health Interview Survey, 1992.



³ Percentages were computed using SUDAAN, a statistical program for survey data analysis that incorporates the NHIS sample weights and complex survey design into its population estimates.

Barriers to Getting Mammograms

Lack of physician recommendation

Misconception that, without symptoms, there is no need to get screened

Lack of awareness about mammography

Cost and/or lack of health insurance

Lack of access to mammography facilities

Fear of cancer detection

Language

Cultural beliefs and values that are not consistent with preventive medical care

Recommendations for Education and Outreach Programs

Encourage routine mammography screening for women in their forties and older.

Emphasize the importance of *routine* screening for the early detection of breast cancer—once is not enough.

Highlight that early detection of breast cancer can increase women's options for treatment and increase survival rates. (See the following page for information on specific audiences.)

Develop breast cancer/mammography outreach and education efforts for minority and underserved audiences that address barriers to getting mammograms.

Provide access to the latest information on risks for breast cancer, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care. Resources include the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service (CIS) at 1-800-4-CANCER and the Food and Drug Administration's mammography facility locator service available through the CIS.

Provide underserved women information about low-cost and/or free mammography screening programs sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Information on the program is available through the CIS.

Provide women ages 65 or older information on Medicare's coverage of mammograms. Information is available through the Medicare Hotline at 1-800-638-6833.

Early detection messages may be particularly important for:

- * African American women because they have the highest mortality and lowest survival rates for breast cancer.
- * Hispanic women because breast cancer incidence rates are increasing faster among Hispanics than other women.
- * American Indian or Alaska Native women because they have higher breast cancer incidence rates and lower survival rates than some other groups of women.
- * Asian or Pacific Islander women because some studies suggest that their cancer rates increase as they become acculturated.
- * Older women because as women age, their chances of getting breast cancer increase.

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Sources of National Cancer Institute Information

Cancer Information Service

Toll-free: 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (for deaf and hard of hearing callers): 1-800-332-8615

NCI Online

Internet

Use <http://www.cancer.gov> to reach NCI's Web site.

CancerMail Service

To obtain a contents list, send e-mail to cancermail@icicc.nci.nih.gov with the word "help" in the body of the message.

CancerFax® fax on demand service

Dial 301-402-5874 and listen to recorded instructions.

This fact sheet was reviewed on 1/13/98